UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DORNEYVILLE CROSSROAD SETTLEMENT - Lehigh County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

OWNER OF PROPERTY:

King George Inn: Mr. and Mrs. Clifford G. McDermott

3141 Hamilton Boulevard

Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103

William Dorney House: Mrs. Jean Fries

3144 Hamilton Boulevard

Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103

John Dorney House: Mr. James White

3214 Hamilton Boulevard

Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

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__FAIR

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__RUINS

__UNEXPOSED

_UNALTERED

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dorneyville Crossroads Settlement is located at the intersection of two important colonial roads. The complex originally consisted of an 18th century stone tavern, an 18th century stone and log house and two early 19th century stone houses. The 18th century house was demolished in a recent road building project.

The most impressive and historic of the three remaining buildings is the King George Inn. This large stone building was built in 4 sections with the original 2 bay section being constructed c. 1755. The facade of this section was laid in coursed ashlar stone with stone segmental relieving arches above the windows. An interior brick chimney was located on the western gable. The moderately pitched gable roof was highlighted by a molded cornice with return. Around 1790 a 3 bay addition was added to the east gable. This addition continued the ashlar stone and segmental arches on the facade but the gable end and rear of rough fieldstone. This 5 bay building with twin entrance doors was purchased by Peter Dorney in 1796. Dorney continued the operation of the tavern and added a 2 bay $1\frac{1}{2}$ story kitchen wing to the rear of the main building. The stone work in this section is identified to that of the two stone houses across the street. The final additionate the Inn was made in the 1930's. This one story cement block dining area was attached to the west gable.

The interior of the inn was remodeled in the 1820's. All mill work stair parts and other surviving details point to that period of construction. Both of the original fireplaces are in working order. The building is in a good state of repair and continues its original use as a tavern. Recent restoration work consisted of minor repairs and the removal of the stucco finish.

The two large stone houses on the southwest and southeast corners of the intersection were built by John and William Dorney, Peter's sons. The building on the southwest corner was built by John Dorney c. 1825 while the one on the southeast corner, by William Dorney in 1835. These two Georgian style houses are constructed of light grey fieldstone with a moderately pitched gable roof and interior brick gable chimneys. The 5 bay facades have plain window frames and a central pedimented doorway. Both house have undergone extensive interior changes. The John Dorney house has been thoroughly modernized while the William Dorney house has been converted into a commercial establishment. In addition a large 2 story modern commercial warehouse has been added to the rear of the William Dorney House. Nevertheless, the houses are in good structural condition and with the Inn comprise an interesting crossroads settlement.

PERIOD

_1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

_OTHER (SPECIFY)

__COMMUNITY PLANNING __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __RELIGION __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __PREHISTORIC _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION _LAW __SCIENCE __1400-1499 __1500-1599 __AGRICULTURE __ECONOMICS __LITERATURE __SCULPTURE XARCHITECTURE __MILITARY __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN __EDUCATION __1600-1699 X1700-1799 __ENGINEERING __MUSIC _.ART __THEATER ___PHILOSOPHY __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT X1800-1899 X commerce __TRANSPORTATION

__INDUSTRY

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

__COMMUNICATIONS

The north-south road was originally a major Indian path which in the 18th century was widened into a road for wheeled traffic and designed by the Penn Proprietors as the King's Highway. It continued southward over the hills to Philadelphia. The east-west road (now U.S. Route 222) was created in 1752 at the behest of the Penns - its purpose was to connect the important ferry-crossing of Easton in the Forks of the Delaware with the nearby erected (1748) town of Reading, the designated County seat for Berks. William Parsons, surveyor general and founder of Easton, laid out both towns and also surveyed this road.

The original builder of the Inn is unknown. It was acquired by Peter Dorney in 1796 and remained in family ownership until 1933. It has been used as a tavern/inn since its construction, making it one of the oldest inns in continuous use in the state. The two late Georgian style houses were built by Peter's sons John and William. Together they present an unusual survival of a crossroads settlement. The strong family connection is also noteworthy.

The three buildings have all been altered over the years. They are, however, good examples of colonial and late Georgian architecture and immently worthy of preservation.

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History of Lehigh County, Vol. 2, 1914.

History of Lehigh & Carbon Counties, Mathias & Hungerford, Philadelphia, 1884.

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